

The Peace of God: Testimony from Russia

AGWM personnel in a sensitive location

This evening, my teammate and I were at a mall, sitting in the food court next to a woman and her pre-teen daughter. Guliza (named changed) had headphones in and we could see she was watching the news. The Lord laid on my teammate's heart a word about peace, the kind that God gave King David when he was in "the valley of the shadow of death." We began sharing about the peace and life that Jesus brings. Guliza shared that she is full of fear and worry for what is happening in the world right now.

We read together John 10:10, "The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, but I (Jesus) have come to give life with abundance." Sharing the Good News that Jesus understands suffering and overcame fear and death and giving victory over sin, Guliza began to soften. I asked her if fear came from God and she answered no. "God wants to give you peace in your heart right now. He is offering you life with abundance right now...assurance of life eternal that begins now!"

Guliza watch a short Good News story in her Central Asian language. Asking her what she thought about it, she said that she had heard about Jesus before but that she has never really understood what He means. She said, "We 'Cousins' make sacrifices of animals for sins. But you don't make sacrifices." I answered her, No, we don't anymore because Jesus... Guliza jumped in, "Because Jesus became your sacrifice." Yes! And Jesus became the sacrifice for the redemption of the whole world—God is not the God of any particular nation. He is the Creator of every people and He died and rose again in victory to give life to every single person.

We continued to share testimony and speak life to her. Guliza asked how we pray and where we pray. We shared that we simply gather with other believers in homes and study the Word together and pray together and that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is present. My teammate and I were so aware of the presence of God throughout our entire conversation. I shared this with her and she responded that His presence was with us because we were talking about Him and so He came!

My teammate asked her how we could pray for her. She quickly answered, "That God would be next to me, with me." As we prayed, it was obvious how touched she was. She thanked us over and over again for talking with her. In the midst of fear and worry in tumultuous times, Guliza heard the voice of Jesus calling her name tonight. Not once did she dispute the claims of Jesus, even that He is God, but simply and sadly said, "But I'm a 'Cousin.'" Please pray that Guliza would be overcome by the love of her Creator. Pray that the Spirit would produce in her faith and boldness to decide to follow Jesus. Pray that the peace of God which passes all understanding would guard her heart and mind in Jesus.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20